

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM IN
INSECT SCIENCE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Bachelor of Science Program in Insect Science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Executive Summary: The request to terminate the Program is due to sustained low enrollment. This request was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan priority to pursue “educational excellence and impact.”

Background:

- ◇ **Description of program.** Insect Science is the biological study of insect life and insect relations with plants, animals, and humans. Insects are economically and medically very important. Entomologists find employment in industry, public health, agriculture, and regulatory institutions. The undergraduate curriculum is designed for persons interested in studying insects, their adaptations, and the practicalities of dealing with them.

Graduates understand the evolutionary and ecological relationships of insects with other life forms, the impact of insects relative to human and animal health, and the relationships between insects and humanity's food, fiber, structural, and aesthetic needs and expectations. They understand the biology, ecology, behavior, diversity, and evolutionary relationships of the major groups of insects. Graduates understand the principles and methods available to manage beneficial and pest insect populations as well as the application of the scientific method in problem solving and the principles of experimental design and analysis.

- ◇ **History of program.** The Department of Entomology has offered an undergraduate degree in Entomology for more than 20 years. In June 2008, the College received Board approval (Agenda Item 1j) to change the name of the program from Entomology to Insect Science. The objective of the name change was to obtain wider name recognition and increase enrollment by increasing awareness of the program to incoming freshmen, community college transfer students, and high school students.
- ◇ **Reason for proposed termination.** In February 2004, the Provost's Task Force to Review Small and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs and Low Enrollment Courses identified 14 undergraduate programs with 50 or fewer undergraduate majors in 2002-03. The Task Force Report asked each college to initiate a review of the viability of their low enrollment degree programs. The Department of Entomology attempted to increase the enrollment in the undergraduate program but was unsuccessful. Therefore, a recommendation was made to terminate the program.
- ◇ **Impact of proposed termination on programming.** Courses associated with the undergraduate major are also service courses for other programs in the college and university. Therefore, enrollment of non-majors is sufficient to justify continuing to offer the courses as service courses. The only course that will be eliminated is Entomology 110 – Technical Lecture: Orientation which is a non-credit course offered to students who plan to major in insect science. The graduate programs in Entomology will continue to be offered.

- ◇ Impact on resources. The department anticipates a redirection of faculty effort due to the elimination of responsibilities related to teaching ENT 100, advising the Entomology Club, and administering undergraduate recruitment, retention, and advising activities. A major redirection of funding resulting from terminating the undergraduate program is not anticipated. Program termination will not free up any existing facilities or equipment.
- ◇ Impact on workforce. The proposed program termination is not expected to affect the workforce needs of the state because the coursework will continue to be offered; the graduate programs will also be offered.
- ◇ Alternative programming. There are no similar programs elsewhere in the state.
- ◇ Effect on current students. All students enrolled in the undergraduate program as of Fall 2012 will be allowed to complete their program. All the necessary coursework will be available to students.
- ◇ Student data. Between 2007 and 2011, there was an average semester enrollment of 15 students in the major or dual major. During that time, there were 15 graduates from the program.
- ◇ Effective date of termination. If the proposed program termination is approved by the Board, suspension of new admissions to the program will become effective immediately. No new students will be admitted to the undergraduate program. All coursework and resources will be available to currently enrolled students to allow them to complete their program.